2024 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RESOLUTION – UPDATING RESOLUTION 1942

LETTER ASSIGNED: A    NEW TITLE: Awareness – Policy – Action: Mobilization for Complete Pediatric Eye Exams

SOURCE: AOA Board of Trustees

STATUS: Submitted to Resolutions Committee

DATE: May 31, 2024    TIME: Noon CT
WHEREAS, prevalence of myopia is increasing in the United States and worldwide, creating more near-term vision issues and longer-term ocular health risks; and

WHEREAS, an FDA-approved medical device is now available to slow the progression of myopia in children; and

WHEREAS, data demonstrates the number of children receiving eye health and vision care has decreased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the number of pediatric ophthalmologists is decreasing and further exacerbating access challenges; and

WHEREAS, efficient visual skills are necessary for successful learning in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated a strong relationship exists between juvenile delinquency and undiagnosed vision problems; and

WHEREAS, even the most sophisticated vision screenings test only for a few of the necessary learning-related visual skills, leaving most visual skill deficiencies undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, significant challenges exist in closing the referral loop following a failed vision screening and

WHEREAS, many vision problems can be treated successfully if diagnosed and treated at an early age; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association shall prioritize a nationwide mobilization to address the eye health and vision needs of children encouraging public awareness and policy initiatives to significantly increase the number of children who receive a complete eye and vision examination from a doctor of optometry before beginning school to diagnose, treat, and manage any eye or vision conditions.

Deleted text is shown in strikethrough. Additions are shown in underline.
THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS YOU CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: UNKNOWN.